AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A disk drive unit with which a disk medium is to be mounted for access, wherein

in the vicinity of a disk insertion and discharge slot of a panel into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged, a felt member for ~~blindfolding~~ concealment is provided which has a slit for insertion of the disk medium along a longitudinal direction of said discharge slot, and

a plurality of slits are provided for (every predetermined interval) in a direction perpendicular to said slit of said felt member.

2. (currently amended): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 1, wherein

a non-deformable member for preventing scratches of said disk medium ~~is provided at~~ projects from an edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to face said disk medium.

3. (original): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed to be convex and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and

discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

4. (currently amended): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said scratch prevention member is a roller ~~ratably~~ rotatably disposed at said panel and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

a-62 cmt

5. (original): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed of a material whose hardness is lower than hardness of said disk medium.

6. (currently amended): A disk drive unit with which a disk medium is to be mounted for access, wherein

a non-deformable member for preventing scratches of said disk medium ~~is provided at~~ projects from an edge portion of a disk insertion and discharge slot into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged so as to face said disk medium.

7. (original): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 6, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed to be convex and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

8. (currently amended): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 6, wherein

said scratch prevention member is a roller ~~ratably~~ rotatably disposed at said panel and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

A-10 cont

9. (original): The disk drive unit as set forth in claim 6, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed of a material whose hardness is lower than hardness of said disk medium.

10. (currently amended): In a disk drive unit with which a disk medium is to be mounted for access, a panel structure having a disk insertion and discharge slot into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged, wherein

in the vicinity of the disk insertion and discharge slot of a panel into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged, a felt member for ~~blindfolding~~ concealment is

provided which has a slit for insertion of the disk medium along a longitudinal direction of said discharge slot, and

a plurality of slits are provided for every predetermined interval in a direction perpendicular to said slit of said felt member.

11. (currently amended): The panel structure of a disk drive unit as set forth in claim 10, wherein

a rigid member for preventing scratches of said disk medium ~~is provided at~~ extends from an edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to face said disk medium.

Q-12 cmt

12. (original): The panel structure of a disk drive unit as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed to be convex and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

13. (currently amended): The panel structure of a disk drive unit as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said scratch prevention member is a roller ~~ratably~~ rotatably disposed at said panel and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge

slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

14. (original): The panel structure of a disk drive unit as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed of a material whose hardness is lower than hardness of said disk medium.

15. (currently amended): An information processing device having a disk drive unit with which a disk medium is to be mounted for access, wherein

in the vicinity of a disk insertion and discharge slot of a panel in said disk drive unit into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged, a felt member for ~~blindfolding~~ concealment is provided which has a slit for insertion of the disk medium along a longitudinal direction of said discharge slot, and

a plurality of slits are provided for every predetermined interval in a direction perpendicular to said slit of said felt member.

16. (currently amended): The information processing device as set forth in claim 15, wherein

a rigid member for preventing scratches of said disk medium ~~is provided at~~ extends from an edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot in said disk drive unit so as to face said disk medium.

17. (original): The information processing device as set forth in claim 16, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed to be convex and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

18. (currently amended): The information processing device as set forth in claim 16, wherein

said scratch prevention member is a roller ~~ratably~~ rotatably disposed at said panel and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

a-b cmt

19. (original): The information processing device as set forth in claim 16, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed of a material whose hardness is lower than hardness of said disk medium.

20. (currently amended): An information processing device having a disk drive unit with which a disk medium is mounted for access, wherein

a substantially rigid member for preventing scratches of said disk medium ~~is provided at~~ projects from an edge portion

of a disk insertion and discharge slot in a panel of said disk drive unit into and from which said disk medium is inserted and discharged so as to face said disk medium.

21. (original): The information processing device as set forth in claim 20, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed to be convex and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

a-12 cont

22. (currently amended): The information processing device as set forth in claim 21, wherein

said scratch prevention member is a roller ~~ratably~~ rotatably disposed at said panel and is disposed at the edge portion of said disk insertion and discharge slot so as to slightly project to the side of said disk insertion and discharge slot so that only a part of a data surface of said disk medium comes into contact with the scratch prevention member.

23. (original): The information processing device as set forth in claim 21, wherein

said scratch prevention member is formed of a material whose hardness is lower than hardness of said disk medium.

24. (new) The disk drive unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plural slits are provided between ends of said felt member.

25. (new) The panel structure as claimed in claim 10, wherein said plural slits are provided between ends of said felt member.

A-12 cmd

26. (new) The information processing device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said plural slits are provided between ends of said felt member.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 8. This sheet, which includes Figure 8, replaces the original sheet including Figure 8. In Figure 8, a typographical error in the label has been corrected. The spelling of the word "PROIR" has been changed to --PRIOR--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet